

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LITTLEBOROUGH.

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,**

For the year ended December 31st, 1915.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Littleborough.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the
Health and Mortality of your District during the year 1915.

Population.

The estimated population of the District is 12,109 (civil popula-
tion 11,702), as compared with an estimate of 11,953 for the previous
year. The population taken at the Census (1911) was 11,697.

Area.

The District extends over an area of 7,856 acres, and is situated
at the foot of the Pennine Range, 500 feet above sea level, on the borders
of Lancashire and Yorkshire.

The climate is somewhat damp but bracing.

The chief industries, the manufacture of cotton and woollen
goods, iron turning and founding.

Density per acre is 1·54 persons.

Vital Statistics.

The number of deaths registered in the District in 1915 was 165. Of these, 5 were non-residents, but there were 36 deaths of residents not registered in the District; so that the net deaths of those belonging to the District were 166, which is equivalent to a death rate of 16·78 per 1,000 of the estimated civil population. Particulars of the causes of death and the ages at which they occur will be found in Table III.

NOTE.—The civil population of 11,702 is supplied by the County Council for the purposes of arriving at the death rate for 1915.

The number of births was 209, which is equivalent to a birth rate of 17·49. One of these births occurred outside the District.

NOTE.—In arriving at the birth rate for 1915 the population for 1914 is taken by instructions from the County Council.

For 1914 the death rate was 14·22 and the birth rate 18·58, and the averages for the past ten years were: death rate 14·47, birth rate 19·48. From these figures it will be seen that the death rate is 2·31 above the average, and the birth rate 1·09 below the average.

During the year 209 births were notified, 173 by doctors and 36 by midwives, 1 of these belonged to the Wardle District. 195 visits were paid by the Health Visitor to houses where births had recently occurred, 998 following up visits, 9 pre-natal visits, and 22 visits in connection with Ophthalmia notifications.

Of those infants visited by the Health Visitor 135 were breast fed, 50 were bottle fed, and 10 were fed both on breast and bottle.

Infant Deaths.

There have been 25 deaths of infants under 1 year, which is equivalent to a death rate of 119·6 per 1,000 net births, against 25 deaths and a rate of 112·6 in 1914. Particulars of these deaths will be found in Table IV.

In the cases where the deaths were investigated by the Health Visitor, 6 occurred before feeding was established, 2 were breast fed, and 7 were bottle fed.

The average for the past 10 years was 94·04. Valuable advice and supervision has been given by the Health Visitor under the Notification of Births Act, 1907, and although the difficulties have been considerable in this, its first year of adoption, it is hoped that more

attention will be able to be given in the future to pre-natal as well as anti-natal cases. Premature birth, etc., being responsible for no fewer than 8 of the total infant deaths. Valuable assistance continues to be given by the District and C.A. Nurses.

Zymotic Respiratory and Tuberculosis Death Rate.

		1914.	1915.
Zymotic Death Rate ...	... ...	0·83	0·34
Respiratory Diseases...	... ...	2·67	2·56
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	... ...	0·58	0·76
Other Tuberculous Diseases	... ...	0·083	0·17

Infectious Diseases.

Seventy cases of infectious disease have been notified during the past year, against 74 in 1914.

		1915.	1914.
Scarlet Fever	... ... ...	28	56
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup	... ...	30	11
Enteric Fever	... ... ...	Nil	3
Erysipelas	... ... ...	8	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	... ...	4	Nil

Particulars of these have been given in the Monthly Reports and a tabulated list of the various diseases and the ages at which they occurred will be found in Table II.

Twenty-three Scarlet Fever cases (82 per cent.) and 16 Diphtheria cases (53 per cent.) were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Only 1 death occurred among these notifiable diseases, that being a case of Diphtheria.

Scarlet Fever.

Of the 28 cases of this disease:

2	occurred in January.
4	" " February.
4	" " March.
3	" " April.
2	" " May.
1	" " June.
4	" " July.
2	" " August.
1	" " September.
5	" " October.
Nil	" " November.
Nil	" " December.

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The cases were not confined to any particular area or district, or to the children attending any particular school or schools. The cases were again mostly of a mild type, and on this account there is no doubt there would be a number of cases unrecognised and untreated, and consequently unreported, which kept the disease more or less prevalent throughout the whole year.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.

Of the 30 cases of this disease :

15	occurred in February.
5	," , March.
1	," , May.
3	," , June.
2	," , July.
2	," , August.
1	," , October.
1	," , November.

Anti-toxin was administered in each case. 1 case proved fatal. The majority of the cases were confined to the centre of the District. In a few instances, some slight defects were found in the sanitary arrangements, but in a large number of cases no cause could be found, although a considerable number undoubtedly had a common source of origin.

Seven Bacteriological examinations were made, 4 giving a positive and 3 a negative result.

Enteric Fever.

No cases.

One Bacteriological examination was made, giving a negative result.

Erysipelas.

Of the 8 cases of this disease :

I	occurred in June.
I	," , July.
3	," , August.
I	," , October,
I	," , November.
I	," , December.

No sanitary defects were found, the cases, in all probability, being due to atmospheric causes.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Of the 4 cases of this disease:

1 occurred in February.

1 " " July.

2 " " October.

Measles.

Very few cases came under notice. Regulations for the compulsory notification of this disease came into force on January 1st, 1916.

Whooping Cough.

Chiefly prevalent in May, July, October, and November. No epidemic.

Chicken-pox.

Chiefly prevalent in July and August, 1 school was closed two days before the Summer Holidays on account of the large number of cases among the younger children. No general epidemic.

I am chiefly indebted for the information regarding unnotifiable diseases to the Returns of Sickness in Schools, supplied to me by the School Attendance Officer.

Influenza.

There were a good many cases in the first and last quarters of the year, mostly of a mild type. 2 fatal cases were registered.

Smallpox and Puerperal Fever.

No cases have been notified.

Diarrhoea.

Very few cases came under notice, only one case of Diarrhoea proving fatal; the printed instructions, which are issued at the commencement of the summer, being of great value.

Isolation Hospital.

The two larger wards are reserved for Scarlet Fever, and the two smaller for Diphtheria or Enteric, but not both at the same time.

Arrangements have been made with the Rochdale Corporation to treat cases of Infectious Disease (excepting Smallpox) at the Marland Fever Hospital when the Isolation Hospital at Hollingworth is full, or the wards not available for their treatment.

In case of an outbreak of Smallpox in the District, arrangements have been made for the removal of all cases to the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board's Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

There were 11 deaths from Tuberculosis, 9 of which were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 to other Tuberculous Diseases, against 7 and 1 respectively in 1914. There were 47 notifications, 35 of which were new cases and 12 duplicate notifications, which latter were chiefly notifications of admission and discharge of patients in sanatoria. Of the 35 cases 32 were Pulmonary and 3 other Tuberculous Diseases.

In all fatal cases, and in the case of removals, the rooms etc., are thoroughly disinfected.

By arrangement with the Registrar, deaths from Tuberculosis and other Infection Diseases are notified on registration so as to facilitate the disinfection of the houses where the deaths have occurred.

Of the cases suffering from Tuberculosis 5 did not go out to work, 1 Motor Driver, 11 Cotton Operatives, 1 Belgian Refugee, 1 Leather Worker, 1 Stonemason, 1 Carter, 1 General Labourer, 1 Dye Works Labourer, 1 Cabinet Maker, 1 Charwoman, 1 Shop Assistant, 3 Woollen Operatives, 2 Hosiery Workers, 1 Railway Porter, and 3 Scholars. The Sputum has been examined in 10 cases, 4 giving a positive result and 6 negative.

Two Shelters for the use of Tuberculous persons have been erected at the request of the County Tuberculosis Authority.

The Housing of the Working Classes.

In view of the difficulties arising out of the present crisis attention has been chiefly confined to the removal of the most urgent nuisances.

Sixty-nine houses have been inspected at Summit and the centre of the District.

Through houses...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Houses not through, but with window opening at back	...						12
" " " with no back door or window	...						2
Back to back houses	..	...	...	...	...	...	9

Rooms.

6 Rooms or more	...	...	...	...	...	I house.
5 "	...	...	...	...	...	5 houses.
4 "	...	...	...	...	...	8 "
3 "	...	...	...	...	...	49 "
2 "	...	...	...	...	...	5 "
I Room	...	...	...	...	...	I house.

These houses were occupied by 287 persons, which gives an average of 4·16 per house. There was one case of overcrowding.

In the majority of the properties, the drains are connected to the sewer, the remaining houses there being no sewer available.

Many defects were noted.

List of defects noted :—

Some work left over from the previous year has been done, and the following is a list of defects remedied during the year.

Under Housing Act:—

Branch drains provided...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ventilating shafts provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drain inlets repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Gullies provided ...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Waste pipes trapped ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
" " provided ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Slopstones provided ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Walls at rear of slopstones repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drain ...	...	...	...	...	...	18
" " repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Windows repaired or renewed and made to open ...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Passages or yards reflagged and drained ...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Earth removed from house wall	...	...	...	...	I
Ashplace building repaired	...	...	...	...	I
" " provided	...	...	...	...	I
Ashtub provided...	...	...	...	...	I
Ashbin " ...	...	...	...	...	I
Midden privy converted to pail closet	...	...	...	...	I
Pail closets " water "	...	...	...	...	2
Manholes provided	...	...	...	...	I
Coal place " ...	...	...	...	...	I
Area at back of building filled up	...	...	...	...	I
Cases of overcrowding remedied	...	...	...	...	I
House cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	...	...	I

Exclusive of Housing Act:—

Main drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Branch " "	...	...	...	...	...	9
" " provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ventilating shafts provided	..	...	...	...	...	3
Manholes provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
" repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains " ...	...	...	...	...	...	14
" opened and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	11
Drain inlet repaired	...	...	...	...	...	I
Gullies provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Waste pipes provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Slopstone "	...	...	...	...	...	I
" repaired	...	...	...	...	...	I
Roof repaired	...	...	...	...	...	I
Eavestroughing repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rain water pipes disconnected from drain...	...	...	...	...	...	2
" " repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Walls repaired or re-pointed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Windows repaired or renewed and made to open...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Floors re-constructed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Passages and yards re-flagged and drained	...	...	...	...	...	I
Earth removed from house wall	...	...	...	...	...	I
Houses provided with Corporation water	...	...	...	...	...	19
" " " satisfactory water supply	...	...	...	...	...	3
Closet buildings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ashplace " "	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ashbins replaced	...	...	...	...	...	2
" provided	...	...	...	...	...	15
Ashtubs " ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ashplaces " ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Coalplace buildings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8

Chimney repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Wall at rear of slopstone repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Midden privies converted to pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pail closets	"	" water	"	...	...	...	9
Additional water closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Waste water closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pail closets abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses in the District at the last census was 2,972, and there were 115 unoccupied. Since then there have been 115 houses built, 39 of which were erected during the past year. All new houses are required to have a back and front door and separate yards and closets.

One school, all houses in which infectious diseases have occurred, and all houses in which Phthisis cases have died, or from which they have been removed, have been disinfected by spraying and fumigating with Formaldehyde. 74 rooms and 1,129 articles have been disinfected. Library books have been destroyed which have been brought away from infected houses.

Notices have been sent to Schoolmasters and Sunday School Secretaries informing them of scholars suffering from Infectious Diseases, and prohibiting them and children from the same house attending school, and also to inform them when children could attend school after discharge from Hospital or Home Isolation.

Notice of Infectious Disease Isolated at Home	...	...	...	32
" " Discharged from Home Isolation	...	...	...	31
" " Infectious Disease removed to Hospital	...	...	...	57
" " Discharge from Hospital	...	...	...	59

Leaflets and posters were distributed and displayed throughout the District, relating to the Compulsory Notification of Measles and German Measles, which came into force on January 1st, 1916, pointing out the course to be taken by Parents and others when a suspected case occurred.

Water Supply.

The District generally is supplied with water by the Rochdale Corporation, which has been satisfactory both as regards quality and

quantity. A number of houses in the District are supplied with water from private supplies. During the year 20 houses have been supplied with Corporation water, 19 of which were previously from private supplies.

Factories.

There are 75 Factories on the Register, which are visited periodically. A large addition has been made to one Factory during the year, at which 6 water closets have been erected. One complaint has been received from the Factory Inspector with respect to closets at one factory, which has received attention.

Workshops.

There are 49 on the Register (excluding retail bakehouses). These have been visited and found satisfactory.

List of Registered Workshops:—

Retail Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Cloggers...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Boot and Shoe ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Joiners ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tailors ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tinplate Workers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Boiler Composition	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Waste Dealer ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cabinet Maker ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rug Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Soda Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wheelwright	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Saddler ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Retail Bakehouses:

There are 20 on the Register, 8 have been limewashed after intimation to the occupiers, and the remainder having been done at the required periods. Minor defects at two Bakehouses have been reported and remedied. A reasonable standard of cleanliness has been maintained without resort to the service of any notices. There are no underground Bakehouses in the District.

Butchers' Shops, Etc.

The Butchers' Shops, Fish Shops, and other Food Stores have been inspected regularly. About 750lbs. of meat and offal, which had been surrendered, has been destroyed as unfit for food.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 7 on the Register. All have been regularly inspected, and are in satisfactory condition.

Maintenance of Live Stock Order, 1915.

This Order, which came into force in August, 1915, was intended to prevent, with certain exceptions, the slaughter of animals likely to improve and increase the cattle in the country.

Cowsheds and Farm Buildings.

There are 93 in the District and 81 Cowkeepers; these have been visited and found to be clean and the majority in good repair. Extensive repairs have been carried out at two farms and minor repairs at a few others. 2 Pigstyes have been erected during the year. 3 applications for slaughtering and 1 for keeping pigs have been granted.

A death from Anthrax occurred at a farm in June. The premises were disinfected and other precautions taken.

On the whole the milk supply is good, and there have been no prosecutions. A Dairy has been erected during the year.

Canal Boats.

Thirty-eight Canal Boats have been inspected, all of which were in conformity with the Acts and Regulations.

Scavenging.

Refuse is removed in covered carts and emptied on tips in the District. There is no destructor, the night-soil being disposed of to farmers, where the land is suitable.

Closets and Ash-place Accommodation.

There are 1,621 Pail Closets, in addition to the mills, 381 Water Closets, 396 Waste Water Closets, 1,736 Ash-tubs housed in Ash-places with doors and coverings, and 114 Ashbins.

During the year:—

- 56 water closets have been erected.
- 4 waste water closets (partly erected) completed.
- 11 pail closets converted to water closets.
- 3 midden privies converted to pail closets.
- 4 pail closets abolished.
- 55 ash-bins added.

The erection of waste water closets is now prohibited.

Sewage and Drainage.

The Sewage is treated at the Sewage Works by precipitation and filtration. All the samples taken have been classed as good. The drainage of all new property built during the year has been connected to the sewers, and much work has been done in the repair and re-construction of old properties.

Smoke.

Forty-six observations, each of one hour's duration, have been taken, none of which exceeded the time limit allowed by the Council (6 minutes dense black smoke in the hour).

Dwelling-house Chimneys.

No cases of chimney firing have been detected.

Petroleum Licences.

Three Licences have been renewed during the year.

Common Lodging-houses.

There are two in the District. Corporation water has been provided, and several repairs carried out at one of them, and the other cleansed after request to the occupier.

I should like to express my appreciation of the efficient assistance given me by Mr. Wild and Mr. Williamson.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. T. R. MACGILL, M.B., Ch.B., M.O.H.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LADY HEALTH VISITOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Littleborough.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my first Annual Report upon the work done—the Notification of Births Act.

The rate of Infantile Mortality is 119·6 per 1,000 births.

During 1915 I have paid :—

Visits to houses where births had recently occurred.	195
“Following up” visits	998
Visits in connection with the Ophthalmia notifications	22
Pre-natal visits	9
<hr/>	
Total visits...	1,224

Of the infants visited there are :—

Naturally fed babies	135
Artificially fed	50
Mixed feeding	10

The great majority of deaths of infants under 1 year are those of bottle fed babies.

Many of these deaths can undoubtedly be traced to insufficient food, neglect, and mismanagement.

It is rarely that children are *wilfully* neglected, but they often are through inexperience, carelessness, and ignorance.

The most frequent mistakes made in this District are those of irregular feeding, *over* feeding, and improper feeding—the giving of patent foods and “pobs” (boiled bread) before the age at which the digestive organs are capable of dealing with starch.

The old-fashioned tube feeding bottle is still in use, but is gradually being ousted by the more cleanly modern feeder. Practically all the babies have the so-called "comforters," against the use of which there is much to be said.

In many cases the babies are now being provided with cosy wool vests in place of the cotton garment formerly worn.

The majority of the older children are well and comfortably clothed with flannel undergarments.

The work this year has been chiefly infant visiting. Any insanitary conditions brought to my notice are reported to and dealt with by your Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Mr. Wild and Mr. Williamson for their kindly courtesy given to me on taking up this appointment.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

B. JOSEPHINE LEECH,

Lond. Obstet. Soc., C.M.B.

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and Previous Years.

URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLEBOROUGH.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births			Transferable Deaths Registered in the District			Nett Deaths belonging to the District				
		Uncorrected Number		Nett Number	Number		Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District		Under 1 Year of Age	At all Ages	
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1910	12139	207	207	17.05	152	12.5	5	23	23	111.1	157	12.93
1911	11705	230	232	19.82	164	14.01	2	17	23	99.13	179	15.29
1912	11853	237	238	20.07	170	14.43	6	13	21	88.23	177	14.93
1913	11869	183	184	15.50	138	11.63	9	18	14	76.08	147	12.38
1914	11953	221	222	18.58	155	12.97	6	21	25	112.6	170	14.22
1915	Civil population 11702	208	209	17.49	165	14.1	5	36	25	119.6	196	16.78

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 7,856.

Total population at all ages, 11,697. } Census
Total families or separate occupiers, 2,972. } 1911.

TABLE II.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1915.
URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLEBOROUGH.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED						TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL	
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	
Small-pox	
Cholera (C)	
Plague (P)	
Diphtheria (including								
Membranous Croup)	30	8	12	16	2	1	6	16
Erysipelas	
Scarlet Fever	23
Typhus Fever	
Enteric Fever	
Relapsing Fever (R)	
Continued Fever (C)	
Puerperal Fever	
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	
Poliomyelitis	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	
Totals	105	4	22	38	14	16	10	39

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1915.

URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLEBOROUGH.

TABLE IV.—INFANT MORTALITY. 1915.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

URBAN DISTRICT OF LITTLEBOROUGH.

		CAUSES OF DEATH									
		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 months & under 6 m'ths	6 months & under 9 m'ths	9 months & under 12 m'ths	Total deaths under 1 year
All causes—	Certified	7	4			11	5	4	3	1	24
	Uncertified	1				1					1
Small-pox	...	...	...					
Chicken-pox	...	...	...					
Measles	...	...	...					
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...					
Whooping-Cough	...	...	...					
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...					
Erysipelas	...	...	...					
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...					
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...					
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...					
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...	...	...					
Convulsions	...	...	...	2	2	4	1	1	1		5
Laryngitis	...	...	...					
Bronchitis	...	...	...					
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...					
Diarrhoea	...	...	...					
Enteritis	...	...	...					
Gastritis...	...	...	...					
Syphilis	...	...	...					
Rickets	...	...	...					
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...					
Injury at birth	...	...	...					
Atelectasis	...	...	...					
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...					
Premature birth	...	4				4	1				5
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	2		2		2	1		1		2
Other Causes	...	...	...			2					4
Totals	...	8	4			12	5	4	3	1	25

Nett Births in the year { legitimate 202.
illegitimate 7.

Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

I.—Inspection.

Number of Inspections of Factories	...	...	...	...	...	19
"	"	Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	91
					Total...	...

110

2.—Defects Found and Remedied.

Breach of special sanitary requirements for Bakehouses (s.s. 97 to 100)...	...	...	...	..	...	2
				Total...	...	2

3.—Homework.

Outworkers' Lists (s. 107).

Nature of Work	Lists received from Employers				No. of Inspections of Outworkers' premises	
	Twice per year		Once per year			
	Lists	Outworkers	Lists	Outworkers		
Making, etc., of Wearing Apparel	I	3	3	

4.—Registered Workshops.

No. of Workshops on Register (s. 131) at the end of the year 69.

5.—Other Matters.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—

Action taken in matters referred to H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory & Workshops Acts (Notified by H.M. Inspector... Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ...) I I

Underground Bakehouses in use at the end of the year (s. 101) None

